



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HP  
9/2/98  
PAB

In re Application of

FRAAS et al.

Serial No. 08/835,419

Art Unit: 1744  
1512

Filed: April 9, 1997

Examiner: T. McMahon

For: PRETREATMENT PROCESS TO REMOVE OXYGEN FROM COAL EN ROUTE TO  
A COAL PYROLYSIS PROCESS AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY  
OF THE HYDROCARBON LIQUID PRODUCT

RESPONSE

To the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 24, 1998, I hereby  
amend the application as follows:

REMARKS

EPA qn/18 Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claim

21. Allowance of the other claims is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 11-14, 16-19, 22 and 23 describe unique  
features that are patentable over Selep et al. Claims 5, 8, 10,  
15 and 20 are also patentable over Selep.

Claim 1 describes a pretreatment vessel for holding a bed of  
coal particles, an enclosure for preventing air from contacting  
the bed of coal particles, and a very low oxygen sweep gas or a  
vacuum for removing the oxygen released from the heated coal  
particles in the pretreatment region.

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JUN 25 PM  
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